

Remarks

Claims 1-7, 9-23 and 25-33 are pending in this application. Claims 8 and 24 have been cancelled without prejudice.


Claims 1-7, 9-23, 26-28 and 30-33 have been rejected as anticipated by *Maruyama et al.* (USP 6,323,440). Applicants believe the rejection on the basis of *Maruyama et al.* is rendered moot by the above amendments. Applicants are not conceding the correctness of the rejection.

Claims 1 and 20 have been amended to include the limitations of claims 8 and 24, which have been considered allowable. Claim 25, which depended upon cancelled claim 24, has been amended to depend from claim 20. Claims 12 and 30 have been amended to include imitations similar to the limitations of claim 8.

In view of the above, favorable reconsideration in the form of a Notice of Allowance is requested. The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (612) 371-5237 if there are any issues that prevent the allowance of this application.

Respectfully submitted,
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March 19, 2002
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